



THE MESSENGER

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

December 2014

From the Pastor—

Happy New Church Year! November 30th is the First Sunday in Advent. It is one of the four Sundays before Christmas. The First Sunday in Advent begins a New Church Year. In the Church we begin a new year before the rest of the world. We begin again on the first Sunday in Advent - November 30.

The readings that we hear on Sunday morning are on a three year rotation. Each year one of the four Gospels is featured in the Gospel readings. The Gospel of John is thrown in here and there among the others. Last year the majority of our readings were from the Gospel of Matthew. This year, we will read primarily from the Gospel of Mark. Each of the Gospels has its own emphasis. The Gospel of Mark tells the story of Jesus who has come and announces that the Kingdom of God is here. The Kingdom of God in Mark is not coming someday - but it beginning in the time of Jesus. Jesus invites those who follow him to participate in the Kingdom of God NOW.

This is another place where the Church is ahead of the rest of the world. The Church lives its life expecting that it will see signs of the Kingdom of God. The Church lives its life as if the Kingdom of God is here now and we can live in its fullness. We can live in ways that act out the Kingdom of God in the here and now.

As we approach Christmas - one of the huge celebrations of the Church that has certainly attracted the world's attention - we get chances to look at who we are and the choices we make toward the Kingdom of God. How does what we do - or do not do - help the world to know that God's activity will change the world? Let me give you some examples.

- 1) This Sunday, November 30, some folks will pack up goody boxes for our college students. The Kingdom of God is a place where people are not forgotten just because we no longer see them on a regular basis. The Kingdom of God remembers that we are connected to one another.
- 2) December 7th we have a Congregational Budget Meeting. It is always scary stuff for us to see the money we have and the money we will spend. The Kingdom of God is a place where we risk everything to do the work of God for the sake of the world. Some of it even seems extravagant
- 3) December 12 a Contemporary Christian Group - Tangled Blue will play a concert at Our Saviour. The Kingdom of God is a place where God's word comes to us in new and fresh ways again and again.
- 4) December 14 some of us will stay after worship to decorate the church and get it ready for Christmas. The Kingdom of God is a place where we give away time that is precious to us in the Christmas season so that the world might see how valuable we think the Kingdom of God is to us.
- 5) December 24 and 25th we gather - we sing - we rejoice in the gift of Jesus. The Kingdom of God is Jesus in the warmth of our relationships, in the words we hear, in the breaking of bread at communion, in the food that we share.
- 6) The Kingdom of God is here with us It is a gift to us in Jesus. It fills our time and our lives with the goodness of God's love.
- 7) Have a wonderful Christmas Season! Join us for Open House on the 28th the Third Day of Christmas (See flyer in this newsletter).



Pastor Anita

Christmas season at Our Savior



December 7, 2014—Advent 2
10:00am Contemporary Worship

December 14, 2014—Advent 3
10:00am Traditional Worship



December 21, 2014—Advent 4
10:00am Contemporary Worship

December 24, 2014—Christmas Eve
7:00pm Family Worship
9:00pm Christmas Prelude Music
9:30pm Candlelight Worship Service



December 25, 2014—Christmas Day
9:00am Breakfast
10:00am Worship

December 28, 2014—Sunday
Open House at Pastor's & Mark's home



THE MESSENGER

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REMINDER—please mark your calendars.
The deadline for the January 2015 issue of
The Messenger is December 15, 2014.
Be sure that your group's upcoming events are
included. All members of the congregation are wel-
come to submit information for the monthly Messenger.
Articles may be sent to the church office, dropped off in
the office or e-mailed to oslc-utica@verizon.net.

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JAM Coordinator Pam Donovan



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Katherine David. 732-0611
Erma Gaspa 797-0913
Youth Group Member Rotates



Our Community Outreach

Members of Our Saviour live among God's faithful people, serve all people, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth by sharing our building and supporting these programs:

Alcoholics Anonymous® a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism holds regular meetings in our facility.

Seeds of Hope, a local food pantry is a collaborative effort of First Presbyterian—Utica, Our Saviour, New Hartford Presbyterian, and New Hartford United Methodist churches.

Hope House, a safe haven providing meals and other services in Utica is supported by volunteers from our congregation.

SPAN, a resource program for individual nurses who are affected by an alcohol or drug-related problem or related mental health problem meets weekly in our building.

HIV dinners which provide dinner and a place for people who are HIV positive to network and learn about the latest trends in treatment are held each month at our church.

Oneida County Lifeworks, peers helping peers build bridges to new lives, connecting people through enhancement of personal recovery, providing a safe, drug & alcohol free environment, providing local community resource guidance and enhancing life and social skills through peer to peer.

Congregational Ministries



Jesus and Me

All Children are invited to join Priscilla Dygert, our December *Jesus and Me* teacher, during JAM time after the Children's sermon.



WINTER IS HERE!

Volunteers are needed to help with snow shoveling and snow blowing to keep our sidewalks and church entrances clear throughout the week. If you can help, please let Jim Lenahan or Clare Thiem know. Shoveling not only helps prevent slips and falls, but it makes our facility a more welcoming place.



Congregation Budget Meeting
2015 Budget
Sunday, December 7, 2014
11:00am—following worship



Budget information is available in the Narthex. Please also prayerfully consider the Stewardship information sent out by Priscilla and Rick Dygert, our Stewardship co—chairs earlier in the fall. The Budget Meeting is your opportunity to give input for God's work through Our Saviour in 2015.

Help Decorate the Church
Sunday, December 14, 2014
after worship

All are welcome to stay after worship on Dec. 14 and help us prepare the sanctuary for Christmas—hang the wreaths, decorate the trees and ready the church for the coming of the baby Jesus.



Christmas Eve Services

7:00pm—Family Worship
9:00pm—Christmas Prelude Music
9:30pm—Candlelight Service

Christmas Day

9:00am—Breakfast
10:00am—Worship

Peace on Earth

Supporting God's work

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER:

I would like to thank all of those that have pledged for next year (2015). We received a total of 28 pledges for \$48,072. For the current 2014 year, I have these figures through October:

Payroll & Benefits	\$94,297	63%
Operating Expenses	\$42,388	28%
Committees	\$10,757	7%
Non-Budgeted	<u>\$ 2,030</u>	1%
	\$149,472 for 10 months OR \$14,947 per month	
Forecast for 2014 year	\$179,364	
Committed for Synod Benevolence	<u>\$ 7,000</u>	
	\$186,364	
Actual giving	\$ 88,650 for 10 months OR \$8,865 per month	
Forecast for year	\$106,380	
From Investments	<u>\$ 52,373</u>	
	\$158,753	
Projected Shortfall	\$ 27,611	

Of the total number of members that received envelopes (115) for the current year only 43 families pledged.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Douglass, Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 2014

	2013			THRU September	2014		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME	\$ 80,643	\$ 85,189	6%		\$ 88,049	\$131,510	49%
EXPENSES	<u>\$147,488</u>	<u>\$117,105</u>	-21%		<u>\$155,142</u>	<u>\$138,313</u>	-11%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	(\$ 66,845)	(\$ 31,916)			(\$ 67,093)	(\$ 6,803)	
				October	2014		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME	\$ 8,064	\$ 9,913	23%		\$ 8,805	\$ 9,513	8%
EXPENSES	<u>\$14,749</u>	<u>\$ 9,603</u>	-35%		<u>\$15,514</u>	<u>\$ 22,937</u>	48%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	(\$ 6,685)	\$ 310			(\$ 6,709)	(\$ 13,424)	
INVESTMENT INCOME		\$ 47,000				\$52,373	
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	(\$ 73,530)	(\$ 31,606)			(\$73,802)	(\$20,227)	

NOTES—Current month: Our income is 8% ABOVE estimate and our expenses are 48% ABOVE budget. We were \$13,424 in the RED for the month of October.

Year to Date: Our income is 60% ABOVE estimate and our expenses are 4% above PLAN. We are currently \$20,227 in the RED for the year. We have currently withdrawn \$52,373 from our investments.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to emergency repairs of the parking lot for \$4,650, it has inflated our expenses. Our yearly income (at 60%) is due to the withdrawal of investments.

Information presented by Paul Douglass, Treasurer



Our Saviour will be presenting a concert of music by Bach on January 4, 2015.

Help is needed! If you are willing to help with any aspect including performing, publicity and reception/treats, please contact Richard for performing or Pastor Anita for other matters. Thank you!

Worship and Music Committee

READING GROUP

The book for the reading group for December is Flight of the Sparrow by Amy Belding Brown. Join in the book discussion on Monday, December 15 at 7:00pm at Sandy Lenahan's home, 4996 Westmoreland Rd., Whitesboro.



Advent

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS ABSOLUTE DEADLINE—SUNDAY, December 14, 2014



Our Saviour hopes to have a large number of poinsettias decorating the Chancel area on Christmas. Any plants you do not wish to take with you will be donated to a shut-in.

I wish to have the Altar Guild purchase a plant for the Chancel for Christmas. (\$6.00 per plant enclosed donation. Enclose a check with your order and drop it in the offering plate or mail to: Our Saviour Lutheran church, 1640 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13502.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Number of plants: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

(If more than one memorial, please use another sheet.) Please PRINT names. If you are taking your plants, please arrange to do so following the service on DECEMBER 25.



_____ I will take my plants after the service

_____ I will deliver a plant to a shut-in. Name of _____

_____ I will leave my plant for a shut-in

Memory Cafe



A Christmas party for people with dementia and their spouses and loved ones featuring Monk Rowe will be held

Sunday, December 14, 2014

2:00—4:00pm

Lutheran Home in Nolte Auditorium

For more information contact
Rev. Brian McCaffrey, 235-7125.



TANGLED BLUE CONCERT the music of Aimée and Joel Pagan FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014

7:00PM

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

A light meal will be served at 6:00pm

For information and to RSVP call Our Saviour Church at 732-0134



Tangled Blue began in the winter of 1995 when the duo first met. They didn't realize it until five years later when in the summer of 2000, Aimée (vocals, percussion) and Joel (vocals, guitar) performed together for the first time. In September of 2001 Aimée and Joel were married and would soon start performing together as Tangled Blue. Their first recording was completed in early 2003. Recorded at a farm house in Menomonie, Wisconsin, it is a caffeinated folk-rock blend of songs that have shown their durability as the duo traveled with them over 500,000 miles of U.S. highways. In 2005 Aimée and Joel relocated to Texas and in early 2007 left for an extended tour that has taken them from Texas to Hawaii to Florida to the Dakotas and everywhere in between. With a new residence in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Tangled Blue completed a recording based on the season of Advent in 2008 and a Christmas recording in 2011.



**Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**You are invited to an Open House at the
new offices of the**

Upstate New York Synod.

Saturday, December 6, 2014

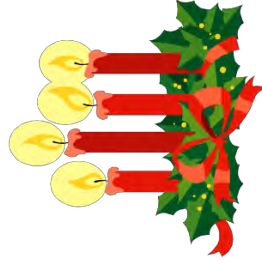
10am—1pm.

**5811 Heritage Landing Dr., 1st. Floor
E. Syracuse, NY 13057**

Come and meet Bishop John Macholz and our synod staff, see our new offices and enjoy some light refreshments.



December 2014 Worship Schedule
Sunday Worship is at 10:00am



	December 7 Advent 2	Dec. 14 Advent 3	Dec. 21 Advent 4	Dec. 24 Christmas Eve—7:00pm	Dec. 24 Christmas Eve—9:30pm	Dec. 25 Christmas 10:00am	Dec. 28	January 4, 2015
Greeters	Mary Ellen Riemenschneider and Dennis Ready	Alex Dudajek and Pam Donovan	Liz and Paul Douglass	Sandy and Jim Lenahan	Pam and Caitlin Donovan	Volunteers	Mary Ellen Riemenschneider and Dennis Ready	Sandy and Jim Lenahan
Acolytes	Anthony and Michael Robles	Joey Abraham	Anthony Robles	Anthony and Michael Robles	TBA	Volunteers	Joey Abraham	Michael Robles
Worship Assis- tant / Lector	Barbara Godbey-Miller Mary Tollerton (L)	N/A	Clare Thiem Pam Donovan (L)	Barbara Godbey-Miller TBD—Lector	Emily Donovan Scott Donovan (L)	Volunteers	N/A	Patsy Glista Dave Wilbur (L)
Nursery	Judy Petroski	Liz Douglass	Katherine And Kathy David	No Nursery	No Nursery	No Nursery	Susan Morris	Judy Petroski



Ushers—Dennis Ready, Norris Ellinwood, Rick Dygert, and Clare Thiem
Altar Guild—Pam Donovan and Beverly Smith



Our Saviour Lutheran Church
1640 Genesee Street
Utica, New York 13502

Rev. Anita Mohr, Pastor

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Worship at 10:00am

*Children's **Jesus and Me (JAM)***

time during worship

Christmas Eve Worship

7:00pm—Family Worship

9:30pm—Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day—10:00am

*As faithful believers of Our Saviour Lutheran Church
we profess the covenant God made with us in our Baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.*